GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2002
EARTHQUAKE PRONE AREAS
N.N. KRISHNADAS

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have noticed certain earthquake prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has made any study regarding the echo system in Kerala especially earthquake and land slides; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Based on the Geological frame work and the past records of occurrences ofearthquake, the country has been divided into five seismic zones. Zone V is the most seismically active while Zone I is the least.Broadly, Zone-V compries of entire northeastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, west Uttar Pradesh hills (Uttaranchal), Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, North Bihar and Andaman & Nicobar islands.Zone-IV covers remaining parts of Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Delhi, Sikkim, northern parts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, parts of Gujarat and small portion of Maharashtra near the west coast and Rajasthan. Zone-III comprises Kerala, Goa, Lakshadweep islands, remaining parts of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, parts of Punjab, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and KarnatakaZone-I and Zone-II cover remaining parts of the country.

(c) & (d) : Yes, Sir. Kerala State falls in Seismic Zone III.Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out microseismic studies in an area of 10,000 Km2 in parts of Kozhikode, Palakkad and Idukki districts.The isoseismal pattern with its trend in north north west - south south east direction is sympathetic with the Bharathapuzha lineament and the seismicity in the area is due the release of stress along this lineament.

Idukki and Wynad districts are the two landslide prone areas of Kerala. The landslide zonation map of Idukki district revealed that the landslides are confined to the zone of overburden material lying above the bedrock along the slopes.